What is a conventional transarterial chemoembolization (cTACE)?

Conventional TransArterial Chemo-Embolization (cTACE) is a minimally invasive procedure which consists of mixing Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid with an anticancer drug and injecting this mixture into the liver via an artery for a local targeted chemotherapy.

This procedure is performed in a Cath. Lab. (catheterization laboratory) equipped for combined surgical and radiological procedures.

During the procedure, a catheter is guided under X-rays into the vessel which feeds the tumor.

Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid and the anticancer agent are directly injected into the tumor via the catheter.
Liver cancer

The Liver is located under the diaphragm in the upper right portion of the abdomen. Liver cancer is a cancer that affects the functions of your liver. The most common form of liver cancer is called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

How is liver cancer diagnosed?
The detection of liver cancer is most often made by echography and confirmed by:
- Blood tests to assess the liver functions.
- CT or MRI examinations to identify the tumor(s) and define their size and location in the liver.
- Liver biopsy during which a small amount of liver tissue is removed to define the grade and stage of the disease.

Liver cancer treatments
A broad range of treatments exist for HCC. The type of treatment depends on the location and stage of the lesion, on the liver function and on your overall health status.

Your doctors can choose different treatment options such as hepatectomy, liver transplantation, ablation, chemoembolization, systemic chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

What is Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid?
Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid was originally developed for diagnostic radiology. In the early 1980s, Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid was used in interventional radiology procedure such as conventional transarterial chemoembolization (cTACE).

When administered via the hepatic artery, Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid is preferentially retained within the tumor for a long period of time. This property of Lipiodol® Ultra Fluid has been exploited therapeutically both to carry the anticancer agent into the lesion and transiently decrease tumor blood perfusion. In addition, a complementary embolization of the tumor arteries is achieved by local injection of gelatin particles.

The anticancer agent will destroy the tumor cells.

The complementary embolization of blood vessels will slow-down tumor perfusion and trigger tumor cell death.

The steps of your cTACE procedure
Before the procedure, you will meet your physician and discuss with him/her about the benefits and risks of cTACE. You may ask questions about the course and duration of the procedure.

Tolerance of cTACE
You may experience some periprocedural side effects such as pain around the puncture site, nausea / vomiting, fatigue, fever or abdominal pain.

Clinical endorsement of cTACE
cTACE procedure is endorsed by international guidelines:
- European Association for the Study of the Liver and European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EASL-EORTC) in Europe
- American association for Study of the Liver Diseases (AASLD) in the US
- The Japan Society of Hepatology, Recommendations
- Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of primary liver cancer in China